IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for detecting the presence of or predisposition to an ectodermal disorder comprising the steps of:

(a) detecting the presence of a human TAJ gene or gene product in a cell of a host predetermined to be at elevated risk of having or being predisposed to a particular ectodermal disorder; and

(b) correlating the presence of the TAJ gene or gene product with a presence of or predisposition to ~~an~~ the ectodermal disorder.

2. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the detecting step comprises detecting a TAJ gene.

3. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the detecting step comprises detecting a TAJ gene transcript.

4. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the detecting step comprises detecting a TAJ protein.

5. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the detecting step is performed inferentially by determining a diagnostic sequence of the TAJ gene or gene product in the individual.

6. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the TAJ gene or gene product is a variant correlated with the presence of or predisposition to ~~an~~ the ectodermal disorder.

7. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the ectodermal disorder is an ectodermal dysplasia syndrome.

8. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the ectodermal disorder is an ectodermal dysplasia syndrome and the syndrome is Clouston syndrome.

9-21. (Canceled)

22. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the detecting step comprises detecting a TAJ gene transcript, wherein the TAJ gene or gene product is truncated.

23. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the detecting step comprises detecting a TAJ protein, wherein the TAJ gene or gene product is truncated.

24. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the detecting step comprises detecting a TAJ gene, wherein the TAJ gene or gene product is a variant correlated with the presence of or predisposition to the ectodermal disorder.

25. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the detecting step comprises detecting a TAJ gene transcript, wherein the TAJ gene or gene product is a variant correlated with the presence of or predisposition to the ectodermal disorder.

26. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the detecting step comprises detecting a TAJ protein, wherein the TAJ gene or gene product is a variant correlated with the presence of or predisposition to the ectodermal disorder.

27. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the detecting step is performed inferentially by determining a diagnostic sequence of the TAJ gene or gene product in the individual, wherein the TAJ gene or gene product is a variant correlated with the presence of or predisposition to the ectodermal disorder.

28. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the detecting step comprises detecting a TAJ gene transcript, wherein the TAJ gene or gene product is truncated, herein the TAJ gene or gene product is a variant correlated with the presence of or predisposition to the ectodermal disorder.

29. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the detecting step comprises detecting a TAJ protein, wherein the TAJ gene or gene product is truncated, wherein the TAJ gene or gene product is a variant correlated with the presence of or predisposition to the ectodermal disorder.

30. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the detecting step comprises detecting a TAJ gene, wherein the TAJ gene or gene product is a variant correlated with the presence of or predisposition to the ectodermal disorder, wherein the ectodermal disorder is an ectodermal dysplasia syndrome and the syndrome is Clouston syndrome.

31. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the detecting step comprises detecting a TAJ gene transcript, wherein the TAJ gene or gene product is a variant correlated with the presence of or predisposition to the ectodermal disorder, herein the ectodermal disorder is an ectodermal dysplasia syndrome and the syndrome is Clouston syndrome.

32. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the detecting step comprises detecting a TAJ protein, wherein the TAJ gene or gene product is a variant correlated with the presence of or predisposition to the ectodermal disorder, wherein the ectodermal disorder is an ectodermal dysplasia syndrome and the syndrome is Clouston syndrome.

33. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the detecting step is performed inferentially by determining a diagnostic sequence of the TAJ gene or gene product in the individual, wherein the TAJ gene or gene product is a variant correlated with the presence of or predisposition to the ectodermal disorder, wherein the ectodermal disorder is an ectodermal dysplasia syndrome and the syndrome is Clouston syndrome.

34. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the detecting step comprises detecting a TAJ gene transcript, wherein the TAJ gene or gene product is a variant correlated with the presence of or predisposition to the ectodermal disorder, wherein the ectodermal disorder is an ectodermal dysplasia syndrome and the syndrome is Clouston syndrome.

35. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the detecting step comprises detecting a TAJ protein, wherein the TAJ gene or gene product is truncated, wherein the TAJ gene or gene product is a variant correlated with the presence of or predisposition to the ectodermal disorder, wherein the ectodermal disorder is an ectodermal dysplasia syndrome and the syndrome is Clouston syndrome.